

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 022439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, PFOR

SUBJECT: OUR OAS REFORM PROPOSALS: WHAT LATIN GET

REF: STATE 18860

1. OAS REFORM PROPOSALS SKETCHED OUT IN STATE 18860 WERE PRESENTED IN CONTEXT OF U.S. INTERESTS. WE BELIEVE THEY SERVE A NUMBER OF LATIN INTERESTS AS WELL AND OFFER FOLLOWING SPECIFICS FOR YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMINS FACIO AND LIEVANO.

2. OAS AND HEMISPHERIC PEACE: SUCCESSFUL REFORM OF RIO TREATY LAST JULY ILLUSTRATED CONTINUING COMMITMENT OF ALL SIGNATORIES TO JOINT ACTION AGAINST OUTSIDE AGGRESSION AND TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF INTERNAL CONFLICT. THIS
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REMAINS CENTRAL RATIONALE FOR REVERSING THE DECLINE OF OAS

PRESTIGE. ALL MEMBER STATES STILL SHARE NEED FOR A REGIONAL, COLLECTIVE FORUM IN WHICH TO DEAL WITH DEFURTHER-PEACEKEEPING AND OTHER SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES. FURTHER-MORE, WE ASSUME THAT IT CONTINUES TO BE AN INTEREST OF OUR FELLOW STATES OF THE HEMISPHERE TO DEAL WITH THE U.S. MULTILATERALLY AS WELL AS BILATERALLY AND AN EXCLUSIVE LATIN/CARIBBEAN GROUPING SUCH AS SELA DOES NOT READILY ENGAGE U.S. ATTENTION. IN SUM, KEEPING AN ARENA OPEN FOR A POTENTIALLY DYNAMIC NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE REMAINS A MUTUAL INTEREST, WE BELIEVE.

3. COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT OAS PROGRAMS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION BUT ARE BADLY IN NEED OF RATIONALIZATION AND MORE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES. WE WANT TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS USEFUL EFFORT BUT NEED LATIN SUPPORT FOR A SENSIBLE ORDERING OF PRIORITIES THAT WILL ENLIST DOMESTIC AND CONGRESSIONAL UNDERSTANDING HERE AND FULL COOPERATION OF ALL OAS MEMBERS. OUR PROPOSALS IN THIS BROAD AREA ARE DESIGNED TO RECOGNIZE THE LATIN'S DESIRE FOR A REGIONAL FORUM THAT PERMITS A CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE U.S. ON REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES. WE BELIEVE IT WILL BE IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO HAVE THE DIALOGUE CARRIED OUT FIRST ON A TECHNICAL LEVEL AND FOCUSED MORE CAREFULLY ON PROGRESSIVELY ATTAINABLE GOALS. WE HOPE TO SEE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIALOGUE EXPANDED TO INVOLVE NATIONAL MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS. WE BELIEVE OUR PROPOSALS CAN INCREASE THE USEFULNESS OF THE OAS ON DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AND GENERATE STRONGER MEMBER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT. WE PROPOSE TO RETAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE OAS PROGRAMS OF DIRECT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES BY SEEKING THE MOST EFFICIENT USES OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE. THIS WILL INVOLVE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IMPROVEMENTS IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMING AND UNIFICATION OF SUCH ACTIVITIES UNDER ONE OFFICE IN THE SECRETARIAT.

4. STRUCTURAL INNOVATIONS: OUR PROPOSALS FOR REFORM -- ESPECIALLY THE ELIMINATION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, CONFIDENTIAL

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STRENGTHENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES -- ARE AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT RAISING THE LEVEL OF NATIONAL PARTICIPATION AND BRINGING GREATER EXPERTISE TO BEAR ON TECHNICAL ISSUES. WE BELIEVE THESE STRUCTURAL INNOVATIONS WILL ENHANCE COOPERATION WITHIN THE OAS AND ARREST THE DRIFT TOWARD STERILE CONFRONTATION. WITH DIRECT, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OAS AFFAIRS BY SENIOR LEVELS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WILL COME GREATER INVOLVE-

MENT IN PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES AND A BROADER SENSE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. THE RESULT COULD BE A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN BOTH THE ROLE AND IMAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION, ONE SOON EVIDENT TO THE POPULATIONS OF MEMBER STATES ONCE IT HAS BEEN CHARGED DIRECTLY WITH OVERALL SUPERVISION AND ENJOYS HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE FULL POWERS TO MANAGE OAS AFFAIRS BETWEEN ITS MEETINGS AND CAN DELEGATE OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO TECHNICALLY COMPETENT PERMANENT COMMITTEES ESSENTIAL OVERSIGHT WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE BUT UNIFORMED AND DEBILITATING POLITICAL DISCORD WILL RECEDE.

5. STRENGTHENED SECRETARIAT: AN IMPORTANT ANCILLARY GOAL OF THESE PROPOSALS IS TO RATIONALIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE OAS SECRETARIAT, A GOAL WE BELIEVE IS WIDELY SHARED AMONG MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS. CENTRALIZED MANAGEMENT BY A SINGLE SECRETARIAT STAFF WILL ELIMINATE DUPLICATION AND REDUCE MARGINAL ACTIVITIES WITH SIZEABLE SAVINGS TO RESOURCES AND MAN-HOURS.

6. OAS MEMBERSHIP: WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE ELIMINATION OF ARTICLE 8 OF THE CHARTER WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED BY SOME MEMBER STATES AND THAT THE PROVISION FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP WILL DISTURB OTHERS. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL TO WIDEN PARTICIPATION IN OAS AFFAIRS AMONG THE CORE ELEMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE WHILE PROVIDING A FORUM FOR COOPERATION AND INTERCHANGE AMONG ALL INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE REGION. AS REVITALIZATION OF THE OAS PROCEEDS AND MEMBERSHIP IS BROADENED, WE BELIEVE CANADA MAY WISH TO TAKE ITS PLACE IN WHAT IT ONCE REGARDED AS A LATIN/US CLUB. THE TREND TOWARD ADMISSION OF MINISTATES AS FULL PARTICIPANTS THREATENS TO DILUTE THE CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE OAS BEYOND RECOGNITION AND SERIOUSLY WEAKENS ITS ABILITY TO PERFORM ESSENTIAL TASKS

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OF PEACEKEEPING AND DEVELOPMENT. WE THINK MANY OTHER MEMBER STATES SHARE OUR MISGIVINGS ON THIS SCORE, DESPITE PROBLEMS SOME PERCEIVE OF JURIDICAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL PRECEDENT DUAL MEMBERSHIP MIGHT ESTABLISH. NEW ASSESSMENT FORMULA WOULD GO FAR TOWARD INCREASING STAKE OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN SUCCESS OF OAS PROGRAMS WHILE ALLAYING WIDESPREAD UNEASE ABOUT PREPONDERANCE OF U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO ORGANIZATION. THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE NO LESS IMPORTANT TO LATIN MEMBERS, WE BELIEVE, AS PART OF JOINT INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE APPEARANCE AND REALITY OF OAS.

7. WE REALIZE AMEMBASSIES BOGOTA AND SAN JOSE WILL BE ABLE TO ADAPT FURTHER ARGUMENTATION TO LOCAL ATTITUDES AND INTERESTS BUT FOREGOING OFFERED AS TALKING POINTS

FOR USE IN DISCUSSING PROPOSALS CONTAINED STATE 18860. KISSINGER

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